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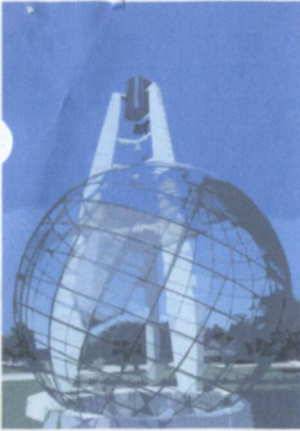
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GSUniverse

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

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"Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity."

Horace Mann

GSU Slams Door on Sorry MSW Affair

Three years ago, GSU was raked over the coals by the media for its MSW program. That's behind us. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) has granted the program accreditation. The process moved on an accelerated schedule and concluded at the June 7 meeting of the full commission of the CSWE. After reviewing the findings of a February 2003 CSWE site team visit, the Council voted to grant GSU initial accreditation, effective June 2003. The accreditation is good for four years.

"This is an amazingly fast turnaround for accreditation," said Governors State University President Stuart Fagan. "Based on the strength and quality of the program going into candidacy, the CSWE put us on a fast track through the accreditation process. We couldn't be more pleased with the result."

Fagan continued, "I want to congratulate the MSW Division Chair Dr. Wanda Bracy, the entire faculty and staff of the MSW program, and Dean Linda Samson. This was a team effort, and they've done a marvelous job of bringing the program up to the national standards for all MSW programs."

Under Dr. Bracy's leadership, the program went into candidacy in November of 2001 and sped through the accreditation process, which concluded in three visits from CSWE instead of the usual four.

"With accreditation," Fagan added, "the quality of our program has been recognized, and we've put this issue behind us."

GSU Awarded Ronald E. McNair Grant

The postbaccalaureate future for GSU students has just received a serious boost in the form of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program Grant. Late word in to the university is that Governors State is one of only four institutions in the country to receive new funding under the McNair Grant this year. The grant is geared specifically toward students with strong academic potential who are low-income or first-generation college students or from groups that are underrepresented in graduate education. McNair is designed to encourage and lay the foundation for a successful progression beyond baccalaureate studies and into Ph.D. programs.

"This is perfect for GSU," said A.C.E.S.S.S Director Viola Gray. "Now we can ask our students directly about going on to doctoral studies and put them in the program that will get them there."

Under grant funding, GSU will conduct a variety of workshops to assist McNair students get past the barriers that could serve as obstacles to their pursuit of graduate studies.

"We serve a primarily adult population at GSU," said Dr. Becky Nugent, Writing Center coordinator and principal writer of the grant. "They usually have families and work full-time. They have the ability to continue into postbaccalaureate study but haven't necessarily thought they could do it. Under the McNair Grant, we'll have the resources to tell them, 'Yes, you can do this,' and show them how to do it as well."

Additionally, the McNair Grant will provide faculty mentors for students and start them on advanced research while they're still juniors and seniors.

"This is great news for students," Gray added. "McNair has a national reputation, and students who participate in the program are actively sought after by several institutions."

The grant was co-written by Kelly McCarthy, student development counselor. The program will go into effect at GSU September 1.

First Step to Revitalize GSU Foundation

The Directors of the Governors State University Foundation held a retreat June 5 to develop a plan to revitalize the Foundation and increase financial support for the university. They identified the top two priorities. First, to define the purpose of the Foundation's fund-raising activities in ways that will energize the organization, interest potential donors, and help attract new Board members. Currently the Board has 14 members and, under the current by-laws, may have up to 29. Second, to recruit an individual to head the Foundation who will shift its focus to friend raising and fund raising. The Directors also saw the need to revise the Foundation's governance structure, update its bylaws, and develop more specific standards for Directors. "This is just the first step," Board President Ron Bean said. "Now the work begins to revamp the Foundation, so we can be of greater service to the university and its students and faculty."

DPS Carries the Special Olympics Torch for Fifteenth Year

GSU's Department of Public Safety participated in the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for the fifteenth consecutive year Wednesday. The Torch Run is part of a statewide effort on the part of law enforcement agencies to raise awareness and money for The Illinois Special Olympics Summer Games. The Torch Run began June 8 and concluded its six day journey across the state Friday, at Illinois State University's Hancock Stadium, in Normal. There, officers lit the "Flame of Hope" to kick off the Illinois Special Olympics Summer Games. The games continue through June 15.

At GSU, DPS Chief Albert Chesser, Sergeant Debra Boyd, Officer Leora Perdric, Officer Johnny McDowell, Dr. Karen D'Arcy, and Project Hope Director Jose Reyes ran three miles with the torch, from the east entrance to Governors Highway and Stunkel Road, as part of DPS's fund-raising effort.

"Everyone in the department is a part of this," said DPS Sergeant James McGee. "It's a great cause, and we're still raising money."

Last year, DPS contributed \$15,000 of the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run's \$1.2 million contribution to the Special Olympics. This year's fund-raising efforts continue through August 31.

"Our officers are still raising money," Sergeant McGee added, "and every penny that comes in supports Illinois Special Olympics and the athletes."

To contribute to the Special Olympics, see any GSU DPS officer. They have Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run hats, pens, and t-shirts to sell, and all proceeds go directly to the Special Olympics.

Governors State Takes its Message to the Largest Book Fair in the Midwest

The university had a table at the Printers Row Book Fair in Chicago last weekend. Erin Kelly and Katie Lindskog, of the Counseling Honors Society Chi-Sigma Iota, and Adalma Stevens, ITS director of support

services, staffed the table, distributed the GSU Fall Schedule and other materials on academic programs, and sold copies of Jon Carlson's book, *The Mummy at the Dining Room Table*. "We informed a lot of people about GSU, thanks to the help of our volunteers," said Chuck Connolly, executive director of Marketing and Communications. "We also promoted a fascinating book by one of our professors. It's a great read. And promoting works like this helps build the reputation of Governors State."



ScholarShip Sails On: Communications

"Listening as Connecting, Listening as Serving," by Dr. Michael Purdy, is published in the Japanese *Journal of the International Association of Health-Communication Sciences*, Volume 1, 2003. The article emphasizes that, in areas of work and service, it is imperative that relationship-listening and connecting precede the establishment of an agenda. The article reviews and draws upon selected literature in the fields of listening, religion, and philosophy.



ScholarShip Sails On: Management

Professor of Management Dr. Chris Easley's paper "Qualitative Investigations: Evoking Change and Egalitarianism in a Knowledge-Based World," co-authored with Dr. Fabienne Alvarez-Pompilius from the University of Antilles-Guyane, has been accepted for presentation at the August 2003 meeting of the National Academy of Management in Seattle.

